

I T having been observ'd, that the Charge of the Medicines for your Hospital has, these two last Years, greatly exceeded the Expence of former Years: And Reflections having been made on Dr. Brown, and my self, on this Account, and on me in particular, that I have brought in some very dear: I think my self oblig'd to vindicate my self by the following Narrative of the Affair.

It is said, That the two Doctors have not been so careful in the manner of their Prescribing, but that this Confusion has follow'd, that the Prescriptions of both have been given at the same time, which has occasion'd great part of the Expence.

To this it is answer'd, That there has not been such a Mistake or Confusion: That this will be justified by the Sisters, and other Attendants, and the Patients of the House. That the Doctors use the same Methods in their manner of Prescribing, as had been always formerly us'd. That it can never be conceiv'd, that the Apothecary could have ever suffer'd such an absurd Practice in the Shop (of delivery out so many Medicines at one time, to every Patient), to have been once admitted, or much less continued: When perhaps the Methods were different upon occasion of the new Symptoms, that appear'd to either of them at the time of their Attendance; and tho' not different, yet alter'd probably in the nicer Circumstances.

I have directed for the Patients few Medicines at one time, in the proportion Dr. Bernard lately us'd, or probably fewer, than any Physician since the Foundation of the Hospital, viz. one or two Internals, with a Decoction, or other Vehicle: for these Reasons; not to interrupt the Operation of the principal by others; and that I might more nicely observe the Efficacy of the Methods in the respective Distempers.

The House wanted some others I presume, indispensably necessary to the Relief of the Sick; I therefore added these Four:

1. The Cordial Powder is of the same Virtue and Efficacy, and most the same Ingredients, with the Gascons Powder, so much us'd in many Cases in all the Families; your others being more spicy and inflaming. Dr. Lower very often advis'd a Powderlike this, with great Success.

2. The Asthmatick Eleſtuary, design'd to prevent the Increase of Phlegm, and Flatulencies, in the Stomach; and besides, to attenuate and cut the roapy viscons Humors, and facilitate the Expectoration. It is by our best Authors stil'd the Divine Eleſtuary in these Cases. The Oxy-mel, not so grateful or useful, and as dear. Your other Pedorals for thin and sharp Catarrhs, would have stopp'd up and destroy'd the Patients reliev'd and cur'd by this.

3. The Digestive Eleſtuary, introduc'd to invigorate the Stomach and Appetite, in the stead of those with Steel, which Chalybeates the Sick, when Hædical, or very feeble, cannot bear.

4. The Oyl of Sweet Almonds was order'd only to the Consumptive and Languishing, who would have been grievously nauseated by the rancid Linseed-Oyl.

In the Year 1699, the Prescripts to the Out Patients were 1076, of the one side of the Hall. The first Cost of the new Medicines is exactly calculated.

1. The Cordial Powder, whose Dose to the Younger is the Fourth-part of a Farthing, was appointed to 110, the Value under 1 l.

2. The Asthmatick Eleſtuary to 28, 12 Boles being reckon'd at Three Farthings, may be past by uncomputed.

3. The Digestive Eleſtuary to 166, the Bole being under a Farthing Value, makes the Charge 1 l. 10 s.

4. The Oyl to 300, comes to 2 l. 10 s.

It is said, That the extraordinary Expence of 400 l. that Year, arose from these new Medicines: Which is an Allegation to be supported with no Probability of Proof: For when these were us'd, others of little difference in the Value were excus'd and let alone.

And it will appear, that the highest Charge for these cannot rise to 20 or 30 l. in the Year, tho' they were absolutely necessary for the Patients in very many respects. And since their Crime is their having been often us'd, and earnestly desir'd, the Cost wou'd have been from this Topick easily accounted for, if it had been four times more: Tho' they are not deliver'd, but from the Direction of the Physitians. For half of the House advis'd by me Weekly (excluding the great number of the Chirurgicall Cases, Palsies, &c.) had the Powder to 187; the Oyl, 90; the Eleſtuary 146; with Variety of the other excellent Remedies of the Shop, adapted, at the other times of advising, to the new and varying Indications of the Diseases. I am sensible, that the Hospital's Charge in Physick, is too much increas'd, that I desire it were to be distinguish'd, from what Cause it arrives.

Let any one view the Prescriptions, and I am certain, it will clearly appear, that they are as short and concise, as those of any of my Predecessors: And the Remedies differ not in value from many others of your very useful Collection. As I have serv'd the House with the greatest Fidelity, and (as I hope) to a full and general Satisfaction, pleasing my self, that I was acting under a Noble Charity, and practising the same at the same time; I will presume, the Calumnies of my Enemies abroad, when the Matter is fully understood, will be despis'd, and that my Services to the House will be well accepted.

There are some, who are angry with the Dispensary, and me, on that Account; who make a terrible Pother in this Concern in the City; little considering (to their great Confusion) that tho' the Charge of the Hospital-Patients rose to 800 l. in the Year, yet that the Charge of every particular Patient does not come to more than 3 d. a Day: And that Clamour and Calumny cannot shake that Great Design of removing the vile Abuses, to the Estates and Lives of the People by the present Practice of Physick, to which no one has dar'd to oppose any one Reason of Weight enough, to perswade the Publick from its true Interest.



